

REMARKS

Claims 1, 10-17 and 19-31 are withdrawn from consideration. Independent claim 2 is amended to avoid the art of record. Claim 3 is amended to correct a typographical error. Dependent claims 4-7 are resubmitted. Dependent claims 8, 9 and 18 are amended to reflect
5 the changes made to independent claim 2.

Our invention is directed toward adding a device, i.e., a networked product to an automation network system in a relatively simple manner. More specifically, it is directed toward “binding” or connecting an electrical device to a network without requiring the use of a computer or a device that is preconfigured with a specific address. The claims now
10 present in the application are directed toward the binding method of installing and binding a device that is to be installed and bound as the first device that is placed in a home network. Referring to Figs. 12A and 12B, and the description on pages 7, 22 and 23 of the application, a networked product having an assigned domain ID is installed into a home network. The assigned domain ID is used to start the installation process. It is not the
15 domain ID that is used by the device when the device is being bound. The domain ID used to bind the device is selected by the device, not by the network. Thereafter, the user initiates the install process by, for example pressing a button and listening for a response to the query. Upon receipt of a response within a predetermined time period, a new domain ID which is selected by the device, not the network, and is different than the original domain ID
20 is transmitted for acceptance and use by the network.

Note: the device, when installed into the network has a domain ID which may have been determined by the device manufactured. But, during the binding process, the device is give a new domain ID, and the new domain ID is selected by the device itself, not by the network. Obviously, if the new domain ID was selected by the network, the network would
25 know that the new domain ID is valid and would not have to check to determine if it is a valid domain ID.

If the domain ID which is selected by the device, not by the network, is not accepted by the network, the device then randomly selects another domain ID for use by the network, and this continues until a domain ID selected by the device is accepted by the network.

The reference cited by the Examiner, US Patent 6,175,860 (860) neither discloses nor suggests doing what we disclose and claim as our invention.

In '860, an appliance box 32 a, b, c and d is connected to each device and it is the appliance box that includes a unique registration identifier for purposes of selectively identifying the connected appliance, and providing the necessary communication protocol to the master computer.(Col.3, L51-61). Also, when a new component is added with the required connection box, it is automatically found and registered within the system. (Col 3, L24-27). Each appliance box includes a unique registration identifier for purposes of selectively identifying the connected appliance, and providing the necessary communication protocol to master computer 12.(Col 5 L 38-41) Each component has a unique registration and serial number that is set at the factory and is never changed.(Col 8, L46-48)

Repeating, in our invention, a device using a preassigned domain ID queries the network requesting installation. Upon receipt of a response, the device, not the network, selects a new domain ID which is sent to the network for acceptance, and this goes on until the device selects a domain ID that is accepted by the network. The '860 reference neither discloses nor suggests doing what we do and claim as our invention.

Claim 2 clearly avoids the '860 reference by reciting that when the device is first connected to the network and receives a command confirming that it is in the installation mode of operation, the device, not the network, selects a domain ID having an associated length for identification by the network. Thereafter, the domain ID selected by the device is transmitted to determine that it is not in use by any other device on the network. If the domain ID which is selected by the device is accepted for use by the network, the device then selects a subnet number and a device ID number.

Nowhere does Gaucher disclose, suggest or even teach the method that we claim, that being where the device, not the network, selects a domain ID which is then either accepted and used by the network, or it is rejected for use by the network. Where the domain ID selected by the device is not accepted for use by the network, then the device, not the network, selects another domain ID for possible use by the network. Subsequent to acceptance of a device selected domain ID, in our invention, the device then selects a subnet

number and a device ID number. Again, in our invention and recited in independent claim 2, it is the device that selects the domain ID and it is the network that determines if the device selected domain ID is valid.

Clearly, the art of record neither discloses nor suggests doing what we disclose and
5 now claim as our invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests early and favorable action by the Examiner.

No fee is believed to be due with this Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the amendment,
10 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 12-1185.

In the event that an extension of time is required to make this Amendment timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account
15 No. 12-1185.

Respectfully submitted,



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